Uniform policy for delayed credit repayments

†1062. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the interest is charged on the credit card holders for delayed credit repayments;

(b) if so, whether any uniform policy is adopted therefor in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the average rate of interest charged therefor by public and private sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The banks charge interest on delay credit repayment from the credit card holders. However, in terms of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Master Circular on 'credit and operations by banks', dated 1st July, 2008, banks have been advised that credit card dues are in the nature of non-priority sector personal loans and as such the banks may determine the rate of interest on credit card dues without reference to their Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and regardless of the size. Further, in terms of the above circular, the banks have been advised that they should quote Annualized Percentage Rates (APR) on card products, separately for retail purchase and for cash advance. The banks have also been advised to indicate the method of calculation of APR with a couple of examples for better comprehension, prominently show the APR charged, annual fee, late payment charges, including the method of calculation of such charges and the number of days, etc. In their monthly Statement to the cardholders, the banks are required to prominently indicate the manner in which the outstanding unpaid amount is included for calculation of interest. As the banks have autonomy in the matter of rate of interest on credit card dues, the rate of interest on credit card dues vary from bank to bank. This RBI Master Circular dated 1st July, 2008 is available on RBI website ***www.rbi.org.in***.

Fixing targeted date for loan disbursal

†1063. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any target had been fixed to disburse the loan to the agriculture sector during the period of April to December of current financial year 2008-09;

(b) if so, the amount of the said fund and whether any amount had been fixed for the entire year;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the amount thereof;

(d) the percentage of loan amount disbursed to farmers till 31st December, 2008 according to target fixed therefor; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the percentage of loan disbursed during the current year is low as compared to last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The agriculture credit target for the lending institutions has been set at Rs. 2,80,000 crore for the year 2008-09.

(d) and (e) A comparative study of agricultural credit figures for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 shows that although the percentage of achievement with respect to the target has gone down in December, 2008 *vis-a-vis* December, 2007, the actual disbursement has gone up in absolute terms. The details are as follows:—

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Target	Achievement (01 April to 31 December)
2007-08	225,000	162,701.20
2008-09	280,000	169,837.28

Irregularities in selling of shares of Satyam company

†1064. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of shares of Satyam company were sold irregularly during the last few months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the latest information, the higher officials and the financial institutions have played a major role in this context;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the details of alleged irregularities found therein;

(d) whether this case is being investigated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and 'Serious Fraud Investigation Office'; and

(e) if so, by when the investigation report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) There has been a spurt in the trading of shares of Satyam Computer Services Ltd.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.